

PART I: ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM A WRITTEN TEXT (70 points)

Read the article below and then answer questions 1-7.

DESTINATION: FINLAND

If you are a tourist in Finland, it is unlikely that you will ever encounter a language barrier. The reason is quite simple: Every Finn speaks at least three languages, while many Finns are fluent in four or even five.

The Finnish language has little in common with other European languages. Even though the Finns are very proud of their culture and language, they understand that knowledge of foreign languages is essential in order to thrive in the modern world. Every Finnish high school student learns at least two mandatory foreign languages: English and Swedish, the latter because Sweden and Finland share a common history. The government doesn't stop there and urges its youth to study one or two additional languages. Most students opt for French, German or Spanish. Recently, the government has been successfully promoting the Russian language because of the increase in Russian tourism. Therefore, visitors to Finland find it extremely easy to communicate with the local population.

Not only are the Finns able to communicate with tourists, but they also go one step further in making sure that their visitors feel welcome. The capital city of Helsinki, for example, has thought of an original way to assist tourists and to help its high school students practice their language skills. During the summer, when many tourists visit the country, the students stroll Helsinki's main streets in pairs offering tourist information. Whether the tourist wants to find a certain landmark, a shop, a good local restaurant or to purchase a ticket to one of the shows in town, these "Helsinki Helpers", as they are known, are of great assistance. Equipped with free maps and a variety of brochures, they can be spotted wearing green overalls with the words "Tourists Information" in white and a tag that states their names. The tag also features various little flags, symbolizing all the languages that the helper speaks.

The ability to speak many languages is certainly an asset. No one visiting Finland can complain, as tourists to various other countries often do, that it is difficult to communicate with the locals.

Answer questions 1-7 in English according to the article. In questions 1, 3 and 7, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

1. What is explained in lines 1-3?

- i) Which sites tourists should visit in Finland.
- ii) Why it is easy for tourists to get around in Finland.
- iii) Why Finns are fluent in so many languages.
- iv) What difficulties tourists face in Finland.

(7 points)

TIP → When you are asked to think about cause and effect, pay attention to connectors such as *therefore, consequently* and *as a result*.

2. Complete the missing information in the sequence of cause and effect below. Base your answers on lines 4-13.

(1) Finnish has little in common with other European languages.

(2) Therefore, the Finns realize that they have to

(3) Consequently, Finnish schools focus on teaching foreign languages.

(4) As a result, most Finns

(2 * 9 = 18 points)

3. What are we told about the Helsinki Helpers program? (lines 14-25)

- i) Why the city came up with the program.
- ii) How the teenagers are **chosen** for the program.
- iii) **When** the program first started.
- iv) Why the teenagers can be found **only** on main streets.

(7 points)

4. How do local students benefit from the Helsinki Helpers program? (lines 14-25)

ANSWER:

(8 points)

5. The writer compares tourists to Finland with tourists to various other countries. (lines 26-28)

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

Tourists to other countries ,
whereas tourists to Finland

(2 * 8 = 16 points)

6. What is the main subject of the article?

- i) The importance of knowing many languages.
- ii) The success of the Finnish educational system.
- iii) Why there is no language barrier for tourists in Finland.
- iv) A new program initiated by the city of Helsinki.

(7 points)

TIP → When you are asked to infer, you must reach a conclusion based on information that you have. The answer will not be explicitly stated in the text.

7. Form this article, we can infer that the writer (~) the Finns' approach to language.

- i) has no firm opinion about
- ii) opposes
- iii) admires
- iv) is slightly critical of

(7 points)

